

COUNTRY RomaniaREPORT NO. 25X1TOPIC Military Training Area North of Cincul Mare

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DATE OF CONTRA

DATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 1 February 1952REFERENCES PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) REMARKS

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SOURCE

1. From 1949 until the fall of 1951, Rumanian troops annually conducted field exercises in the Cincul Mare (R 36/R 71) - Merghindeal (R 36/R 61) - Movile (R 36/R 72) - Barcut (R 36/R 82) - Soars (R 36/R 81) area. With the exception of some Soviet officers accompanied by Rumanian officers, no Soviet troops were noticed. The training area was also used by Rumanian troops before World War II. In the summer of 1950, civilians were evacuated from all villages within the area. No barracks buildings or other permanent installations were known to exist in the training area. Since 1950, most of the units have been accommodated in tent camps. The training area was off-limits to civilians only during the period of field exercises.
2. Since 1949, the annual summer exercises have been held during the period from March to August. Most of the troops arrived by road on the Voila (R 35/Z 79) - Cincul - Merghindeal highway. In late August 1951, a unit leaving the training area was entrained at the Voila railroad station for shipment toward Sibiu (R 35/R 20). According to soldiers belonging to the various units, the troops came from the Galati (R 55/Z 25) - Braila (R 55/Z 13) area and from Bucharest.
3. Most of the troops observed in the training area were infantry units. There were several thousand men and they wore red, black and purple service colors. Their equipment included long and short Rumanian rifles; rapid-fire rifles resembling short carbines, with a band of perforated sheet metal around the upper part of the barrel near the muzzle; submachine guns with drum and clip magazines; air-cooled, box magazine (Kastenmagazin) machine guns without a butt, mounted on tripods; and air-cooled machine guns with butt. All soldiers had gas masks. Some of the masks had the filter mounted on the face piece and other masks had a connecting hose to the filter carried on the soldiers' back. *
4. The number of artillery pieces involved in the field exercises was rather small. Most of the artillery pieces observed were horse-drawn. There were two types of guns: one gun was of about 80-mm, had a barrel about 2.5 meters long, a gun shield without side plates, a split-trail carriage, two wheels with wooden spokes, a small pivot wheel below the trail, and was drawn without a limber by a team of six horses harnessed directly to the trail. The other gun, which was drawn in the same manner, was of about 100-mm, had a barrel projecting about 1.5 meters beyond the gun shield, a split-trail carriage, two wooden-spoke wheels and a small wheel below the trail. A few of the above guns were towed

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by trucks, with the gun crews riding on the trucks. **

5. AA guns observed in the training area were of about 40-mm, drawn with a limber by a team of four horses, had a barrel about 2 meters in length, two disk wheels with pneumatic tires and an outrigger-type gun mount. The two wheels were removed during the process of unlimbering.
6. No tanks were observed during the 1951 field exercises. However, seven tanks were seen once in 1950. Their tracks and suspensions were like T-34s.
7. In addition to horse-drawn vehicles, the troops were equipped with a large number of trucks, including two different versions of three-axle vehicles with gasoline engines and benches, used for the transportation of troops. All trucks were [redacted].

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25X1 8. [redacted] Rumanian soldiers were doing construction work north of a hill between Merghindeal and Novile in the summer of 1951. The purpose of this construction work was not known.

9. A hutment of 30 to 40 wooden barracks buildings, 8 to 10 of which were built prior to World War II, was observed at the northern exit of Cincul Mare, on the west side of the road to Merghindeal. The installation was occupied by an unidentified Rumanian unit throughout the period from 1949 to September 1951.

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25X1 ** [redacted] Comment. This is the first report to mention horse-drawn artillery pieces without limbers. It is believed that the limbers concerned were not taken along for the field exercises, and that the trails of the artillery pieces were equipped with a wheel for use only in transporting the guns.

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